

BULLETIN

OF THE

National Conference of Social Work

Vol. 21

CHICAGO, DECEMBER, 1917

No. 5

The War and Reconstruction

By President Robert A. Woods

A statement issued upon authority of the Executive Committee of the Conference

THE National Conference of Social Work represents assets of vast and indispensable importance in the present crisis. Its Executive Committee urges upon all responsible citizens, as a patriotic necessity second only to the direct prosecution of the war, the steady maintenance of all well-approved agencies for community well-being.

It is an indirect but powerful confirmation of all sound enterprise in this great field that so many of its motives and methods have been more or less formally approved by the government, as means necessary to the health, efficiency and spirit of the military and naval forces. Among the principal war-time activities in which such progress has been registered are,—the work of the Red Cross abroad and at home; the organization of recreation about the camps, and in nearby cities; the application, in connection with army and navy discipline, of advanced principles, both educational and legal, in social hygiene; the introduction of experts in mental hygiene into the army service; the community organization of food conservation; the maintenance of existing industrial standards, particularly as affecting women and children; the provision, in part, of properly devised housing and recreational facilities in connection with new munition and shipbuilding plants; the training, in some instances, of skilled workmen for such industries; conciliation in industrial disputes affecting products necessary to the conduct of the war; the creation of a sound scheme of insurance for soldiers and sailors as the alternative to a pension system; the formulation of plans for the re-education of maimed soldiers; and the projects already being foreshadowed for the re-employment of the returning army.

Equally significant as an acknowledgment on the part of the nation of the reality and value of social work, is the fact that so large a number of those who have proved their case as leaders in it were instantly drawn into the new forms of war-time service, and are today, in the total, everywhere recognized as inseparable from the main defenses of the country. There are few of our regular services that have not gladly spared many of their best representatives in this way. The largest drain has been that upon socially trained doctors and nurses.

With many of our agencies thus deprived of those most responsible for the steady continuance of their work, the entire system of the regular and usual philanthropic activity throughout the country is having new and special burdens laid upon it. Services directly associated with the war are calling for substantial assistance and co-operation from the remaining members of their staffs, and it is taken for granted

that such calls will steadily increase. Local agencies are entering into active relations with the civilian relief division of the Red Cross. Recreational workers are developing their plans so as to re-enforce the efforts of the war-camp community service, especially as affecting soldiers and sailors in the large cities. Special agencies for moral protection, as well as the staffs of neighborhood centers, are strengthening their existing facilities for surveillance in every nook and corner of many cities, toward the suppression of the worst forms of temptation to the men in uniform.

The great burden of the war period, however, so far as our regular activities are concerned, comes from the inevitable effect of the war in creating anxious community problems which, if not continuously and comprehensively dealt with, would easily create serious national embarrassment. At numerous critical points in the great cities, the local community agencies have been able to make vitally significant contributions toward the building of the army, by the service of

members of their staffs on exemption boards and by their pervasive influence in interpreting the attitude and spirit of the country from house to house amid solid immigrant populations. In the national campaign for food conservation,—organized throughout upon lines suggested by experience of social work,—much of the best and most far-reaching result has been secured by agencies whose work is so districted and localized that they could effectively cover and reach in detail the entire mass of the homes in tenement and immigrant communities. On the other hand, officials of state and



On the Way to Kansas City

The bluffs along the Missouri river rival in beauty the Palisades of the Hudson

other public institutions have organized for service in the national cause through greater material economy and through the provision of trained men from their staffs for needed service in connection with the war.

But what most needs to be emphasized is that the accustomed, continuous work of our community agencies is, with almost negligible exceptions, more urgently needed than ever before. The subtle disorganization of family life, the unrest and emotionalism which affects young men and women, the noticeable increase in juvenile delinquency, the presence of new dangers to public health and vitality owing to inadequate food and fuel, the danger of lowered industrial standards, the undermining of family economic well-being through the increase of prices beyond wages,—all these tendencies are receiving the most alert and constant attention.

It should also be clearly understood that the many and varied needs that are characteristic of normal times exist in full degree underneath and behind all the more arresting phenomena that relate to the war. So long as the normal well-being of the well-to-do and

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the prosperous is in no way endangered, there is every reason why all such forms of care and consideration, of active fellowship across the lines of class and race, of civic responsibility, as have become inextricably bound up with our way of national life, should be kept at their even momentum. And here it should be remembered that every phase of useful work is today incurring increased costs at every turn.

The final and—aside from the great immediate end sought in the war—the determining consideration is the age-long importance of the reconstruction era which, at farthest, will soon be upon us. When we are suddenly projected into the midst of its inconceivable demands and dangers; when the rebuilding of civilization and the recovery of the racial stock and stamina of the occidental world begins to take its full measure before our minds, every item in the program of social work will have its precious value. Some of its phases which until now have been in the region of sentiment—like the marvelous system that is developing for the comprehensive physical care of child life—will take their place among the foremost articles of statesmanship. Of equal importance are the segregation of the feeble-minded, the progressive elimination of alcoholism and the great continuous epidemic diseases, universal physical and vocational education, the more human organization of industry, and a determined leveling-up of the hygienic and moral standards of the home and the community.

The European nations are, at the present moment, in the last depths of the war, turning a substantial portion of their narrow reserves to the task of reconstruction. Shall we, with our only slightly impaired national resources, be any less enlightened and downright?

Social Workers' Exchange

The National Social Workers' Exchange, which had its beginning at the Pittsburgh Conference, has recently set about securing a nation-wide registry of men and women engaged in various branches of social work. It is a co-operative organization, manned by a group of workers who are interested in facilitating the selection of trained executives and assistants for various types of agencies, and in raising the standards of professional service. The exchange appeals for both institutional memberships and individual registrants. The list of officers and members of the executive committee includes, among others, Richard H. Edwards of the International Committee Y. M. C. A., New York, president; C. C. Carstens, Boston; Margaret F. Byington and James S. Cushman, New York; Sophonisba P. Breckenridge and Edna Foley, Chicago; Robert A. Woods, Boston; Joseph C. Logan, Atlanta; Gertrude Valle, Denver, and others. Mrs. Edith Shatto King, formerly of San Diego, is manager of the central bureau, which is located at 130 East 22d street, New York.

Charter Members

"Forward, march!" is the slogan for the new class of Institutional Members, created by action of the Conference in June, for which the annual fee is twenty-five dollars. Eight new members in this class have been enrolled during November and December. All agencies coming into this division of membership for 1917 or 1918 will be known hereafter as charter members. The order of the following list is in accordance with date of payment of fee, payments for 1917 being placed first:

1. Associated Charities, Memphis (1917).
2. Pittsburgh Hospital (1917).
3. Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society, New York (1917).
4. Associated Charities, Cleveland (1917).
5. Legal Aid Society, Chicago (1917).
6. Bureau of Municipal Research, Philadelphia (1917).
7. State Industrial School, Ogden (1918).
8. Charity Organization Society, Buffalo (1918).

These agencies merit the gratitude of the Conference for this more substantial support. Their lead, it is hoped, will be followed by many others during the next few months.

Pennsylvania Directors of the Poor

Plans for the codification of the nearly 800 separate poor laws of Pennsylvania were considered at the 43d annual meeting of the Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities and Corrections at Johnstown October 15-18. The convention authorized the appointment of a committee to study the question and report at the meeting next year at Butler. As a result of a new law authorizing poor law officials to come at public expense the attendance at Johnstown was probably the largest in the long history of this association.

One entire section was devoted to problems connected with county almshouse management. In the discussion it developed that there is an increasing sentiment against the separation of aged respectable couples when they are committed to the almshouse. Only about thirteen per cent of the boys paroled from the Huntingdon reformatory have violated parole, according to the statement of Superintendent T. B. Patton at the session on county and state penal institutions. F. H. Niebecker, of the Glen Mills school, and William F. Penn, of the Morganza school, participated in the symposium on this subject. The president of the association, Oliver P. Bohler, made a plea for more effective work in the rural districts and remote localities.

Albert P. Roderus of Pittsburgh is the new president and Edwin D. Solenberger of Philadelphia has been continued as secretary.

Prison Association Meets at New Orleans

"Fellow citizens!" said Commissioner J. T. Gilmour of Toronto, Canada, in responding to the address of welcome to the congress of the Ameri-

can Prison Association at New Orleans, November 19. The speaker's voice was drowned in applause. Shortly afterward an official representative of the mayor of Mexico City was escorted to the platform to address the convention. General Demetrio Castillo, of Havana, was chosen first vice president of the association for the ensuing year. In such ways was there evidenced a growing internationalism in the affairs of this time-honored organization.

"Some Essentials of Constructive Criminology" was the subject of the presidential address by Dr. David Coombs Peyton, superintendent of the Indiana Reformatory at Jeffersonville. The main effect of this address showed clearly the increasing emphasis of the Prison Association on the principle "that criminal activity is not the expression of voluntary will but that it is an expression of an underlying fundamental defect of the higher senses."

A million acres of productive land is expected to be under cultivation by the inmates of penal institutions in the United States next year, according to statements made at the New Orleans meeting. Frequent reference was made to the special session of the association at Washington last July, at which a program of co-operation in the work of national defense was outlined. That ex-prisoners should be encouraged to join the army, in separate units, was strongly advocated.

Archdeacon B. M. Spurr of Moundsville, West Virginia, was elected president, and Joseph P. Byers of Philadelphia, general secretary for the ensuing year. The roster of chairmen of program committees is as follows: criminal law, Frank L. Randall, Washington; prevention, Leon C. Faulkner, Lockhaven, Md.; probation, George Benham, Auburn, N. Y.; penal farms, Frank R. MacDonald, Minneapolis; prison discipline, Colonel Sedgwick Rice, Leavenworth, Kan.; criminal statistics, John Koren, Boston; the war, Dr. D. C. Peyton, Jeffersonville, Ind. The 1918 meeting will be held at Oklahoma City in October.

Legal Aid Societies

A special group luncheon during the sessions of the Pittsburgh conference that has not been reviewed in the *Bulletin* was that of representatives of legal aid work. On the invitation of M. W. Acheson, Jr., president of the Legal Aid Society of Pittsburgh, such a luncheon was held on June 7. It was attended by legal aid workers and representatives of organizations having legal aid departments from about fifteen cities. A special guest was Francis H. McLean, of the National Association for Organizing Charity. The spirit of the occasion was well indicated by Mr. Acheson, the presiding officer, when he said "No one needs help so much as the lawyer in meeting social problems of the day."

New York State

"Lest We Forget" was the warning title of the presidential address at the New York state conference at Binghamton, November 13-15. Under this heading, Dr. Lee K. Frankel disclosed the prospect of increased burdens of social work due to new problems of physical unfitness, sanitation and crippling of the forces making for community welfare. The mental element in the crime problem, vocational training, employment of women in war time, the minimum family budget, control of venereal disease, restriction of feeble-mindedness and the activities of county boards of child welfare proved to be the outstanding topics of discussion, under the guidance of six program committees. The next meeting will be held in Rochester, November 12-14, 1918. Charles H. Johnson, secretary of the State Board of Charities, is the new president, and Richard W. Wallace, of the same office, continues as secretary.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Conference on Social Welfare met in Philadelphia November 21 and 22, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Division of the American Red Cross and the Pennsylvania Committee of Public Safety. Meetings were held at the City Club. The program emphasized war in relation to standards of health and morals; relation between private social agencies and the Red Cross; work for unmarried mothers; the critical housing situation due to the war industries and the colored immigrants from the south; work for children in time of war; law enforcement in relation to non-supporting husbands, fathers of illegitimate children and prosecution of rape cases. J. J. Kelso of Toronto, Professor Samuel McCune Lindsay, Mrs. John M. Glenn, Lieut. T. N. Pfeiffer of the Commission on Training Camp Activities and Dr. M. Howard Fussell were among the prominent speakers.

Kentucky

The famous Berea College in Kentucky this year furnished the stage for the meeting of the State Conference of Charities and Correction. This occurred on November 10-12. As in case of nearly all other recent state conferences, the demands of war time organization predominated. Such a subject as recreation for children, for example, gave place to recreation about the National Army cantonment. But the old issues would not be downed entirely. An able appeal for proper care of the feeble-minded was made by Alexander Johnson. To those who are continuing their work for the isolated people of the mountains, John C. Campbell of the Russell Sage Foundation brought a helpful message. And to those who are continuing to do charity work, Margaret F. Byington, who is engaged upon a social survey of Lexington, made an appeal that they should struggle to maintain standards as high as possible. The persistent workers for the prevention of blindness in Kentucky pledged themselves to take new heart for their fight against the eye disease that is a plague in certain parts of the state.

Rabbi Theodore J. Levy of Owensboro and Charles Strull of Louisville were elected, respectively, president and secretary for the new year. The organization adopted the new name "Kentucky Conference of Social Work."

West Virginia

Interrelation of social work and national defense proved to be the unique achievement of the Virginia state conference at its meeting, December 3-5, at Fairmont. State officers and representatives of the Red Cross and of the state council of defense joined in the discussions. Governor John J. Cornwell at the opening meeting came out strongly for non-political administration of state institutions and for better handling of the county jail problem. The state survey made by Dr. Hastings H. Hart for the state council of defense was a central topic of discussion. A program of activity was adopted by the conference, which includes an effort to secure a state board of charities and the preliminary organization of a voluntary committee to pave the way for the creation of such a public agency.

The next meeting will be held at Charleston the third week in January, 1919. Professor L. M. Bristol of the state university being president, and A. E. Sinks of the Wheeling associated charities being secretary.

The Conference membership list has continued to grow since the Pittsburgh meeting. Ninety-eight persons have come into our fellowship during the last few months, representing chiefly the states of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and New York. This increase is the largest to be registered at this period of the year in the recent history of the Conference.

South Carolina

Social Hygiene has had its inning at several state conferences this year, but at none has it received more earnest attention than at the South Carolina conference, at Aiken, November 13-15. "No evil is a necessary evil" was the assertion of Allen Johnstone of Columbia, who is in the service of the U. S. Commission on Training Camp Activities. The whole history of prostitution in connection with war encampments at Columbia, the capital city, was reviewed, and the experience of other communities put in evidence in support of a plea for abolition of the segregated district there.

"Our Social Problems Under War Conditions" was the general topic of the conference, which met under the presidency of the Rev. K. G. Finlay of Columbia. Among out-of-the-state speakers were R. W. Hogue of Baltimore, Frank Moore of Rahway, N. J., and Joseph C. Logan of Atlanta. England's war time experience was drawn upon for lessons in respect to child labor. Delegates made a visit to rural schools in company with a home demonstrator for the Food Administration, who carried along a fireless cooker in which food was prepared en route.

The meeting was devoid of pessimism.

Everyone wanted to know, "How shall we set about to improve conditions?" The name of the organization is to be changed, possibly to the South Carolina Conference of Social Work. Mrs. J. L. Coker, Jr., of Columbia, is the new president and Margaret Laing of the same city continues as secretary.

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts State Conference meeting at New Bedford, Oct. 24-26, had the unusual honor of sitting under the presidency of the president of the National Conference, Mr. Robert A. Woods. President Woods conducts a column in the *Boston Transcript* under the caption, "The Social Settler," from which the following quotations are made:

At one point the discussion of special war-time work and of the task of community-building in general had an identical interest and emphasis. The absolute necessity of volunteers to meet the urgent needs of the war-time services helped to show more unmistakably that the only way in which comprehensive community plans looking to the future could ever be carried out was by the enlistment of large numbers of volunteers. The last decade has made great progress in the way of recruiting and preparing professional leaders in social work. With the next must come the development to large significance and influence of the keen, devoted and disciplined volunteer.

Dr. Jeffrey R. Brackett gathered up the motive of the conference by urging the importance of having programs start with normal and average people, rather than those who have come under economic or moral depression. He held that only a broad sense of the common good can prevail against the common enemies of the local neighborhood, and that this sense must learn how to be fully engaged under ordinary conditions and without waiting for some catastrophe. The same feeling was represented in an undertone throughout most of the discussions. There was a definite consciousness that a severe test, as well as a high opportunity, awaited social work in carrying over the present marked emphasis that there is upon it, into the post-war period.

The president for the ensuing year is Rev. Augustus P. Reccord of Springfield. Miss Lillian M. Brown of the Society for the Care of Girls, 184 Boylston street, Boston, is the new secretary.

Your Proceedings

The complete volume of Proceedings of the Pittsburgh Conference have come from the bindery and are in process of distribution to members and others. On long distance shipments it is possible to make a considerable saving by sending by freight to important distribution centers. The congestion of freight traffic in eastern and north-eastern states makes it likely that members located in those regions will not receive their Proceedings much before the middle of January.

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President, Robert A. Woods
South End House, Boston

Published Monthly by the National Conference of
Social Work. Edited by the General Secretary
of the Conference

William T. Cross

315 Plymouth Court, Chicago, Ill.

Price fifty cents a year, five cents a copy. Sent all
members in consideration of payment of fifty
cents as part of membership fee

Entered as second-class matter October 18, 1913, at
the Postoffice at Chicago, Ill., under Act of
August 24, 1912

The National Conference of Social Work (until recently the National Conference of Charities and Correction) exists to facilitate discussion of the problems and methods of practical human improvement, to increase the efficiency of agencies and institutions devoted to this cause, and to disseminate information.

It began as a part of the American Social Science Association in 1874. Its scope and influence have gradually widened with the growth of scientific thought and the increase in extent and complexity of social problems. Its annual meetings attract between 3,000 and 4,000 delegates.

The Conference consists of seven permanent Divisions, devoted to the following subjects: Children; Delinquents and Correction; Health; Public Agencies and Institutions; The Family; Industrial and Economic Problems; and The Local Community. Special provision is made for the consideration of subjects not falling under any of these classifications.

Anyone who is interested in the purposes and work of the Conference may become a member upon payment of the prescribed fee: regular members, \$3.00 a year; sustaining, \$10.00; institutional, \$25.00. Join the Conference, so as to lend it your support and to participate in the benefits of its association.

Donations, in any amounts, are asked, to maintain and increase the larger educational work of the organization.

The *Proceedings* of the annual meeting, in cloth-bound volume or in separate sections, and this monthly *Bulletin* are furnished all members. This and other literature, including many pamphlets, may be purchased by persons not belonging to the Conference. Price lists will be sent on request.

A bureau of information about social problems and agencies is maintained at the Chicago office, for the service of all who may inquire, even though they may not be members.

Conferences, Secretaries

ALA.—Birmingham, latter part of March. Carl H. Milam, Birmingham.

ARK.—Helena, April — Murray A. Auerbach, 308 Riegler Bldg., Little Rock.

CAL.—Santa Barbara, Apr. 15-19. J. C. Astredo, 501 Otis Bldg., San Francisco.

CONN.—New Britain, Apr. 21-23. George L. Warren, 401 Connecticut Nat'l Bank Bldg., Bridgeport.

N. J.—(Meeting place not decided) April — Ernest D. Easton, 45 Clinton St., Newark.

NEB.—Omaha, Feb. 17-19. Address Mrs. Rose M. Ohaus, 210 City Hall, Omaha.

N. Y. CITY.—May. John B. Prest, 287 Fourth Ave., New York.

N. C.—(Meeting place not decided). February or March. Mrs. T. W. Lingle, Chapel Hill.

TENN.—Memphis, May — C. C. Menzler, Board of Control Bldg., Nashville.

VT.—Rutland, Jan. 23-24. A. R. Gifford, Burlington.

VA.—Petersburg, Jan. — Joseph T. Martin, Library Bldg., Richmond.

WASH.—Spokane, January or February. M. A. Covington, Children's Home Society, Spokane.

The Executive Committee of the National Conference met in New York on December 8. Thirteen members were present.

The region of Kansas City, where the 1918 National Conference is to be held, is patriotic territory. A dispatch from Kansas indicates that 94 per cent of all families in the state were registered in the recent campaign for food conservation, and that Iowa stands next with 91 per cent. Another dispatch claims that Missouri stood first in this registration in regard to ratio of signatures to total population.

The Committee on Program for the Kansas City Conference met in New York on December 8. This is a subcommittee of the Executive Committee, consisting of President Woods, Miss Davis and Messrs. Hart, Daniels and Cross. All of the divisions of the Conference were represented, in most instances by their chairmen. It may be possible to publish in January the preliminary outline of the 1918 program.

The National Probation Association is demonstrating, through practical arrangements for its 1918 discussions, the value of the new plan of consolidation of program of so-called kindred groups with that of the National Conference. Two of its meetings, at the time of the Kansas City Conference, will be held jointly with the Division on Children. Two others will occur as parts of the program of the Division on Delinquents and Correction. Thus, aside from its executive sessions, its discussions will be actually a part of the transactions of the National Conference.

Professor George H. Mead of the University of Chicago, has been appointed to succeed V. Everit Macy as chairman of the Division on Social Problems of the War and Reconstruction of the National Conference. Mr. Macy's resignation is occasioned by his duties as chairman of the board of conciliation of the Council of National Defense. Professor Mead, who will be remembered as a participant in the conference of 1910, is chairman of the public affairs committee of the City Club of Chicago, and of the board of directors of the University Settlement.

Social Service Exchanges

Secretaries of social service exchanges held a third annual meeting during the Pittsburgh Conference. For the first time information was made available regarding the organization and methods of operation of confidential information bureaus throughout the country. A report was made on replies to a questionnaire that had been sent to fifty-eight exchanges. Thirty-five replied and twenty were represented at the meeting at Pittsburgh. A series of studies of these exchanges will be carried on during the year by the central committee of the organization, of which the chairman is John Solenberger, 425 S. Fifteenth street, Philadelphia. The proceedings of the Pittsburgh gathering may be secured from Mr. Solenberger.

Secretaries have been chosen for four of the new permanent Divisions of the National Conference as follows:

Division I.—Children, C. C. Carstens, Boston; Division II.—Delinquents and Correction, C. B. Adams, Boston; Division V.—The Family, Francis H. McLean, New York; Division VI.—Industrial and Economic Problems, Hornell Hart, Cincinnati.

New Directory Announced

A directory of the membership of the National Conference will be issued early in 1918. Heretofore the membership list has been published in simple form, only members' names with street addresses being given. The last list of this kind to be published was contained in the BULLETIN of January, 1916. This year it is planned to enlarge the directory by including in every case possible the member's title, or other indication of connection with social work. In a letter which is to be sent members shortly after the first of the year, will be enclosed a return card on which they will be asked to give up-to-date information for this directory.

Long-Time Plans for Permanent Divisions

Three division committees have set about outlining plans for discussion to be followed during a period of years. In this they have taken their cue from the reorganization which occurred at the Pittsburgh Conference, whereby seven divisions have been established permanently.

The Division on Children announces a scheme of procedure whereby as rapidly as possible they will "make an analysis of as many essentially important and different groups of social work tasks in behalf of children as can be discovered in actual operation at the present time. Eleven distinct departments of child welfare work are named for this purpose, in connection with each of which a committee of specialists is to be appointed. These different departments range from infant welfare work, the care of dependent children, etc., to such general problems as vocational training and industrial adjustment of the adolescent. Through a series of years the discussions of this division are intended to relate especially to the home, the school, industry, the church, the state and private organizations.

The Division on Delinquents and Correction likewise are outlining a continuing plan of discussion. As many as six departments, or subordinate sections, are contemplated. The Division on Industrial and Economic problems also announce their intention of re-writing the industrial platform adopted at the Cleveland Conference in 1912 and of formulating a three-year program for the conduct of their work.

It is expected that as rapidly as the new divisions can get their work under way, other programs of this nature may be announced.

